



COUNTY OF SAN BERNARDINO
Environmental Health Services
DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH

www.sbcounty.gov/dehs

800-442-2283

Flooring Materials Informational Bulletin

Cal Code, California Retail Food Code section 114268 states:

"...floor surfaces shall be smooth and of durable construction and nonabsorbent material that is easily cleanable."

"...floor surfaces shall be coved at the juncture of the floor and wall with a 3/8 inch (ten [10] millimeter) minimum radius coving and shall extend up the wall at least 4 Inches (ten [10] centimeters)..."

The Division of Environmental Health Services will require one of the following as an acceptable integrally coved floor:

1. Quarry tile floor with an integral four (4) inch quarry tile coved base. Quarry tile must be impact resistant and have a minimum thickness of ¼ inch.
2. Ceramic tile floor with an integral four (4) inch ceramic tile coved base. Ceramic tile must be impact resistant and have a minimum thickness of ¼ inch. Ceramic tile must be slip resistant.
3. Approved troweled-on epoxy floor with a uniform thickness of at least 1/8 inch and integral epoxy coving formed up the walls a minimum of four (4) inches.
4. Sheet vinyl flooring of commercial grade coved up the wall a minimum of four (4) inches. The sheet vinyl must be properly installed with a coving board for support and a metal cap at the top of the base. All seams must be heat welded or chemically sealed. A minimum wear layer thickness of .055 inch is required.
 - Generally not acceptable for use in high moisture areas where floor drains are present, in areas subject to extremes in temperatures, or with heavy equipment.
5. Concrete floor with an approved grease resistant sealer and one of the following four (4) inch minimum coved bases:
 - a. Slim foot quarry tile.
 - b. Slim foot ceramic tile.
 - c. Metal, properly installed.
 - d. Integral Concrete (rounded at the top).

*Concrete floor sealers must be a FDA or USDA approved or equivalent penetrating sealer. Sealers may need to be reapplied every six months to remain effective.

Other flooring materials may be approved by submission of samples and specifications for evaluation and determination of compliance with the minimum specifications. Samples and specifications of alternative flooring materials must be submitted prior to installation. Flooring materials must be impervious to water, grease, and acid.

Flooring notes:

- A. Non-skid flooring with an abrasive texture shall be limited to traffic areas only and not under equipment. If the abrasive texture is deemed excessive a high pressure hot water cleaning system and floor drains may be required.
- B. Equipment cabinet bases, equipment curbs, and large pieces of equipment designed to be sealed to the floor are required to have an approved coved base around all exposed sides.
- C. All coved base must be compatible and integral with floor materials.

Approved flooring materials are required in all of the following areas:

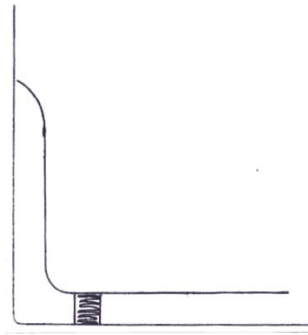
- Kitchen Areas
- Food preparation and food handling areas
- All sink areas (food prep, hand wash, utensil, and mop sinks)
- Utensil washing and storage areas
- Dry storage areas with unpackaged foods
- Walk-in refrigerators and freezers
- Ice machine areas
- Waitress stations
- Self-serve food and drink areas (i.e. salad bars, buffets, drink counters)
- Restrooms
- Garbage and refuse storage areas

Vinyl Composition Tile (VCT squares) flooring and four (4) inch vinyl or rubber topset base materials will be permitted only in the following areas:

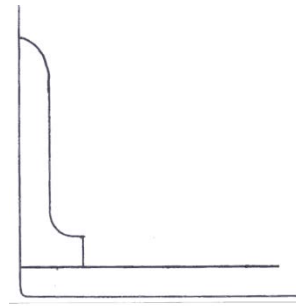
- Customer areas
- Dry food storerooms with food products in original unopened packaging
- Dressing rooms
- Offices

For questions concerning acceptable or approved flooring materials, please call one of our offices at (800) 442-2283. Plan Check office hours are from 8:00 a.m. to 9:00 a.m.

Cove Base Installation for Quarry and Ceramic Tile Floors:



Correct Method



Incorrect Method

Sanitary Tile Cove Topset Base - slim foot for concrete floors:

